

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM USLO PEKING

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 2912

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ECON CH US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK'S VISIT TO CHANGSHA, SHAOSHAN, KWEILIN
AND CANTON

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK VISITED CHANGSHA, SHAOSHAN, KWEILIN AND CANTON DURING SEVEN-DAY TRIP TO SOUTH CHINA DECEMBER 2-8. ITINERARY INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH PROVINCIAL VICE CHAIRMEN IN CHANGSHA AND CANTON AND WITH MUNICIPAL VICE CHAIRMEN IN SHAOSHAN AND KWEILIN. ASIDE FROM RATHER ODD AND PEJORATIVE COMMENTS BY KWEILIN VICE CHAIRMAN ABOUT THE "APPEASING POLICIES" ADOPTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION, ALL MEETINGS CONSISTED OF STANDARD BRIEFINGS ON PROVINCE OR MUNICIPALITY. FACTORY VISIT IN CANTON REVEALED NEW UPSURGE OF POSTER CRITICISM AGAINST PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH GANG OF FOUR; ELSEWHERE THERE WAS LITTLE DISCERNIBLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY SAVE BANNERS, SLOGANS, AND LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLES WELCOMING CONVOCATION OF MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES. PREOCCUPATION WITH COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS WAS INTENSE IN ALL CITIES;
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THIS REASON WAS CITED FOR INABILITY TO SCHEDULE VISIT TO UNIVERSITY IN CANTON. MUNICIPAL COURT NOTICES DATED OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WERE OBSERVED IN CHANGSHA AND CANTON; LONG JAIL SENTENCES WERE THE NORM FOR SERIOUS OFFENSES AND ONLY ONE EXECUTION NOTICE WAS SIGHTED. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK, ACCOMPANIED BY USLO OFFICER,

TRAVELED TO SOUTH CHINA DECEMBER 2-8, SPENDING APPROXIMATELY TWO DAYS EACH IN CHANGSHA/SHAOSHAN, KWEILIN, AND CANTON.

3. CHANGSHA/SHAOSHAN (DECEMBER 2-4). AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK VISITED FIRST NORMAL SCHOOL (WHERE CHAIRMAN MAO HAD STUDIED AND TAUGHT), THE HUNAN PROVINCIAL MUSEUM, THE SHAOSHAN IRRIGATION SYSTEM (WHERE HUA KUO-FENG HAD SUPERVISED CONSTRUCTION), MAO'S BIRTHPLACE, AND THE MAO TSE-TUNG MUSEUM AND SHAOSHAN. SHAOSHAN MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN MA MING-HSI HOSTED A LUNCHEON AT WHICH CONVERSATION WAS CORDIAL BUT NONSUBSTANTIVE.

4. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK MET FOR ONE HOUR ON DECEMBER 2 WITH HUNAN PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN SHANG TZU-CHIN, WHO PROVIDED ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF PROVINCE. WITHOUT PROVIDING STATISTICS, SHANG VOLUNTEERED THAT BOTH EARLY AND LATE RICE HARVESTS IN 1977 HAD SURPASSED THOSE OF 1976 WHILE INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT IN 1977 WAS EXPECTED TO EXCEED CENTRAL TARGETS BY SOME 20 PERCENT. SHANG DESCRIBED SHORTAGE OF ELECTRICITY IN PROVINCE AS MAJOR DILEMMA REQUIRING LONG-TERM ATTENTION. SHANG ALSO INDICATED THAT FULL MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE BY 1980 WAS PRESSING GOAL OF HUNAN, BUT NOTED THAT USE OF TRACTORS FOR PLOUGHING WAS VERY LIMITED AT PRESENT, ACCOUNTING FOR LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF LAND UNDER CULTIVATION.

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5. THERE WAS LITTLE OVERT INDICATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN HUNAN SAVE BANNERS WELCOMING THE OPENING OF THE 5TH HUNAN PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. A SEPTEMBER MUNICIPAL NOTICE CONTAINED STRICT INJUNCTIONS AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY OF BROADCASTING FACILITIES AND "LISTENING TO ENEMY RADIO STATIONS." COURT NOTICES DATED NOVEMBER 24, POSTED IN SEVERAL PLACES IN DOWNTOWN CHANGSHA, CALLED ON THE "SMALL HANDFUL OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM THEIR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES FORTHWITH; THESE NOTICES GAVE PARTICULARS OF SENTENCES METED OUT, USUALLY FOR PERIODS OF 10-20 YEARS, TO PERSONS FOUND GUILTY OF ARMED ROBBERY AND SECOND OR THIRD DEGREE MURDER.

6. KWEILIN (DECEMBER 4-6). SUBSTANTIVE HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT TO KWEILIN WAS 45-MINUTE MEETING WITH KWEILIN MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN OU CHEN, A SELF-ASSURED OLD SOLDIER WHO ENTERED KWEILIN IN 1949 AND HAD HELD AN ARRAY OF MUNICIPAL POSITIONS EVER SINCE. AFTER A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE OUTLOOK FOR KWEILIN'S ECONOMY AND TOURIST INDUSTRY, OU UNEXPECTEDLY LAUNCHED INTO A RATHER BIZARRE RENDITION OF HIS PRESUMABLY PERSONAL VIEWS

ON US POLICY VIS-A-VIS CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. DECLAIMING THAT CHINA STOOD BY ITS FRIENDS LIKE FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER, OU VENTURED THAT "WE ALSO HAVE SOME OPINIONS ABOUT THE APPEASING POLICIES OF PRESIDENT CARTER TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION...YOU ARE MAKING THE POLAR BEAR FAT (BY SALES OF GRAIN AND TECHNOLOGY)...YOU DO NOT CONTEST WITH THE SOVIET UNION." OU ALSO DEPARTED FROM HIS MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL ROLE TO PRESENT THE STANDARD PRC LINE ON CONDITIONS FOR NORMALIZATION INCLUDING THE RIGHT OF THE PRC TO HANDLE THE TAIWAN PROBLEM IN ANY WAY THAT IT BELIEVES APPROPRIATE. DESPITE CONTENT OF THE CONVERSATION, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL, EVEN JOVIAL, THROUGHOUT, WITH OU CLEARLY ENJOYING THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN GIVE-AND-TAKE ON THE POLICY PLANE.

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7. ANOTHER JARRING NOTE IN KWEILIN WAS PRESENTATION OF A 1974 HONG KONG PRODUCED MOVIE ON THE GLORIES OF KWEILIN. FILMED AND EDITED AT THE HEIGHT OF THE GANG OF FOUR - INSPIRED CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS, THE MOVIE WAS REplete WITH PRAISE FOR CHIANG CHING'S REVOLUTIONARY OPERAS AND FOR THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN GENERAL. AFTERWARDS, THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CONTENT OF THE FILM WAS OUT OF TUNE WITH CURRENT REALITIES. IT HAD BEEN DONATED GRATIS TO THE KWEILIN MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE BY THE HONG KONG STUDIO; PRC CENTRAL AUTHORITIES HAD NEVER PURCHASED IT. KWEILIN OFFICIALS DECIDED THAT THE PORTRAYAL OF LOCAL SCENIC ATTRACTIONS -- DONE ADMIRABLY IN THE FILM -- WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS WITH

POLITICAL LINE.

8. CANTON (DECEMBER 6-8). HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT INCLUDED A MORNING VISIT TO THE CANTON HEAVY MACHINRY FACTORY AND A ONE-HOUR SESSION WITH KWANGTUNG PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN LIU TIEN-FU. THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE, EVIDENCING A SPIRIT AND GENERAL LACK OF CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATIVENESS MORE IN KEEPING WITH THE GANG OF FOUR ERA, SAID THAT A VISIT TO ANY CANTON UNIVERSITY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE OWING TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION AND HE REFUSED TO ARRANGE A VISIT TO THE SUN YAT-SEN MEMORIAL HALL BECAUSE IT WAS "UNDER REPAIRS" (THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT A CANTON MEETING TO CRITICIZE GANG OF FOUR SUPPORTERS HAD OPENED THERE ON DECEMBER 6).

9. VICE CHAIRMAN LIU TIEN-FU, AN OLD CADRE WHO EXUDED THE MANDARIN MANNER AND TOOK AS HIS DUE THE SYCOPHANTIC ATTITUDE OF SUBORDINATES PRESENT, DELIVERED AN IMPRESSIVELY DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE KWANGTUNG ECONOMY AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. LIU INDICATED THAT THE 1977 EARLY RICE HARVEST HAD BEEN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS THAT OF 1976 OWING TO SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS; THE LATE RICE HARVEST HAD BEEN MUCH BETTER, HOWEVER, AND COULD BE "CONSIDERED AN ABUNDANT HARVEST." LIU CHARACTERIZED INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE IN 1977 AS "ON THE WHOLE GOOD," BUT POINTED TO DIFFICULTY IN FUEL AND ELECTRICITY OWING TO INSUFFICIENT RAIN THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PROVINCE AND A RESULTANT VOLUME IN KWANGTUNG'S RESERVOIRS SOME 40 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL. LIU STRESSED THAT KWANGTUNG HAD EXPERIENCED NO CHAOS INSPIRED BY THE GANG OF FOUR AND HAD THUS ESCAPED DAMAGE TO ITS ECONOMY "EVEN IN 1976 AT THE HEIGHT OF THE GANG'S INFLUENCE."

10. DESPITE KWANGTUNG'S RELATIVE INSULATION FROM PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM GANG OF FOUR FACTIONAL ACTIVITY, THE CITY OF CANTON WAS CAUGHT UP IN ANOTHER "HIGH TIDE" OF CRITICISM OF THE GANG'S SUPPORTERS AND ALLIES. POSTERS AND ESSAYS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED AT THE CANTON HEAVY MACHINERY FACTORY EXCORIATED CANTON MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE TRADE UNION FEDERATION CHAIRMAN WU WEN-PIN AND CANTON MUNICIPAL CONFIDENTIAL

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REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN SUN YI-WU FOR THEIR "FACTIONAL ACTIVITIES" ON BEHALF OF THE GANG. (THE CHINA

TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE INDICATED THAT BOTH HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR POSITIONS AT THE END OF 1976, HOWEVER.) THE DECEMBER 8 KWANGCHOW DAILY CARRIED ARTICLES AND AN EDITORIAL ON THE DECEMBER 6 CONVOCAATION OF A MUNICIPAL PARTY MEETING TO CRITICIZE FACTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF UNSPECIFIED INDIVIDUALS. NO POSTERS WERE OBSERVED ON THE STREETS OF CANTON, HOWEVER.

11. THE SOLE COURT NOTICE OBSERVED IN CANTON CONTAINED PARTICULARS OF A CASE INVOLVING A MAN WHOSE CARGO OF STOLEN MERCHANDISE HAD IGNITED THROUGH FRICTION AND HAD SET ABLAZE A FERRY, CAUSING LOSS OF LIFE AND CONSIDERABLE PREPROPERTY DAMAGE. THE MAN WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH "FORTHWITH" AND A RED CROSS THROUGH HIS NAME SUGGESTED THAT THE EXECUTION HAD INDEED BEEN CARRIED OUT.

12. ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS AND DETAILS OF MEETINGS WILL BE REPORTED IN SEPARATE MESSAGES.
WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

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